

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03757 081027Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
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SUMMARY: FOREST PRODUCTS MISSION CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY TUESDAY
MARCH 7 AFTER EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY (MAF) AND MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
(MOC). ON MARCH 8, DETAILED TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS OF DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPANESE LUMBER AND PLYWOOD STANDARDS WERE HELD
WITH MAF AND ALL JAPAN FEDERATION OF LUMBER ASSOCIATIONS.
AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FOR NEXT PHASE OF DISCUSSIONS,
BEGINNING WITH VISIT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST OF JAPANESE FOREST
PRODUCTS MISSION TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR END OF MAY OR EARLY
JUNE. U.S. TEAM IS
RETURNING THROUGH PACIFIC NORTHWEST FOR POSSIBLE BRIEFINGS
OF GOVERNORS OF WASHINGTON AND OREGON AS WELL AS PRESS. END
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SUMMARY

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH MAF ON MARCH 6 COVERED ENTIRE RANGE OF
PROBLEMS CONFRONTING JAPANESE LUMBER AND PLYWOOD IMPORTS.
MAF ANNOUNCED COMPLETION OF TECHNICAL STUDIES OF TWO ISSUES (KNOTS
AND WANE) AND ARE MOVING TOWARD POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION OF CHANGE
IN GRADING RULES. ON OTHER LUMBER GRADING ISSUES MAF

INDICATED FURTHER STUDY WILL BE REQUIRED. REGARDING LUMBER INSPECTION PROCEDURES MAF PROPOSED STATIONING INSPECTOR ON U.S. WESTCOAST AT INDUSTRY EXPENSE (HONDA PROPOSAL). PLYWOOD STANDARDS ISSUES WERE MORE DIFFICULT BUT DOOR WAS OPENED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO STUDY MEANS OF DEALING WITH GRADE MARKING REQUIREMENT. ISSUES OF PRICING OF IMPORTED LUMBER AND RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT WERE ALSO INTRODUCED.

3. INDISCUSSIONS WITH MOC ON MARCH 7, U.S. RECEIVED INFORMATION ON JAPANESE HOUSING TOALS, TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION, FINANCING METHODS, INCLUDING THE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASING PLATFORM FRAME CONSTRUCTION (UTILIZING U.S. 2X4 DIMENTION LUMBER) AND BETTER GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED FINANCING FOR HOME CONSTRUCTION. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO ENCOURAGE PLATFORM FRAME CONSTRUCTION AND THE USE OF PRE-CUT LUMBER WAS DISCUSSED.THE MOC SUGGESTED THE FORMATION OF A TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE (U.S. CANADA AND JAPAN) TO DISCUSS SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR LOGS AND LUMBER.

4. THE DISCUSSIONS WILL PROVIDE A GOOD BASIS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST BY THE JAPANESE FOREST PRODUCTS MISSION.
SHERMAN

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